

**RESOLUTION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE
OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE AND CONDITIONS OF THE
OAU CONTACT GROUP ON AFRICA'S DEBT**

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Thirty-Second Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 8 to 19 July, 1996,

Recalling Africa's Common Position on Africa's external debt crisis adopted by the Third Extra-Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU held in Addis Ababa, from 30 November to 1 December, 1987,

Further Recalling Resolutions AHG/Res.219 (XXIX), 211 (XXVII), Decision AHG/1254 (LI) on the deliberations of the OAU Contact Group on Africa's External Debt,

Gravely concerned over Africa's increasing indebtedness, debt servicing burden and deterioration of the socio-economic situation in Africa,

Recognizing the need to re-energize the operations of the OAU Contact Group on Africa's debt,

Noting with appreciation the initiatives taken by H.E. Mr. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and OAU Out-going Chairman, with the G7 at its meeting had in Lyons, France, from 27 to 29 June, 1996, to find a solution to the problems of Africa's debt,

Recognizing the need for an effective coordination, consultation and exchange of information and experience among African countries, and cooperation with the creditors as a way of finding just and lasting solution to Africa's debt crisis:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Secretary-General on the evaluation and functioning of the Contact Group;
2. **COMMENDS H.E. Mr Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, OAU Out-going Chairman and Chairman of the Contact Group** for the relentless efforts deployed to sensitize and alert the international community to Africa's external debt crisis;
3. **RE-NEWS** the mandate of the Contact Group and **REQUESTS** it to pursue the on-going efforts and, in cooperation with the creditors, find every possible ways and means of resolving the external debt crisis;
4. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Current Chairman of the OAU to take necessary measures to review the Chairmanship of the Contact Group as well as the composition of the Contact Group with a view of ensuring equitable geographical representation and the participation of all Groups of indebted countries;
5. **DECIDES** to enlarge the composition of the Contact Group from 12 to 14 members taking account the importance of the issues at state;
6. **REQUESTS** the Current Chairman of the OAU, Chairman of the Contact Group, to continue and intensify the sensitization efforts among Africa's creditors in order to persuade them to take an active part in the reason for a lasting solution to Africa's external debt crisis;
7. **REQUESTS** Member States of the Group to coordinate their activities at country level in order to facilitate the effective participation of Finance Ministry and Central Bank representatives in the activities of the Contact Group;
8. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to take appropriate budgetary and administrative measures to ensure that a meeting of the Contact Group is convened in the margin of Council of Ministers sessions;

9. **CALLS ON African countries to set up mechanisms at country level to facilitate cooperation in the area of exchange of information and experience in debt management and international negotiation;**
10. **REQUESTS the Contact Group to meet at the level of African Ambassadors in Addis Ababa in order to prepare the Ministerial Session of the Group;**
11. **REQUESTS the Secretary-General of OAU, in collaboration with ADB and ACMS to take necessary steps to ensure implementation of this resolution and to submit an appropriate report thereon to the next session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU.**

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